Vol. XXX .... No. 9,274.

## THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

THE DISPUTED BATTLE NEAR AMIENS. THE TRUE STORY FROM KING WILLIAM-MAN-TEUFFEL WINS ANOTHER VICTORY - ONE THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN - A FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT-THE BATTLE REGARDED AS "INDECISIVE."

LONDON, Dec. 25, 1870. King William telegraphs to the Queen that Gen. Manteuffel won a victory on the 23d near Amiens, taking 1,000 prisoners. He is pursuing the French in the direction of Arras to-day.

Gen. Faidherbe, commanding the Army of the North, reports as follows to the French Minister of

"The Prussians gave us battle on the 23d inst. We were well posted between Davours (f) and Contay. Our troops fought admirably during the entire Villages were taken and retaken. At 5 in the afternoon our success was complete. We drove the enemy before us with the bayonet. During the night the Prussians entered some villages in the valley, but they did not try to attack our position."

Other reports say Gen. Faidherbe was successful on his right and left wings, and his army slept on the field of battle; but the result was indecisive. The next day, the enemy showing ne disposition to renew the fight, Gen. Faidherbe returned to Albert.

## GENERAL MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

NO MORE FIGHTING AT PARIS-ESTIMATED EF-FECTUAL FORCE OF THE GERMAN ARMIES-AFFAIRS ON THE LOIRE-A FRENCH NAVAL EXPEDITION ORGANIZING.

LONDON, Dec. 25, 1870. Balloon advices from Paris to the 23d are at hand. There had been no more fighting. The French loss in the sortie of the 21st was reported at about 800.

The total effective force of the German armies now in France is set down in round numbers at 600,000, half of which is now before Paris. In addition to this number, 100,000 men are reported on the sick list. It is estimated that 300,000 Germans affirmative. I have no weapon, and if I had, should have been killed or disabled since the beginning of the war. Garrison duty in Prussia is to be intrusted to volunteers, who by reason of being under or over age, or of having served their terms, are not liable to military service.

Gen. Bourbaki sends the French Government a favorable account of the army under his command. A French official dispatch from Le Mans, of Dec. 24, announces that the Prussians have withdrawn from Nogent-le-Rotron. Seventy-five thousand men passed through the town, going in the direction of Paris.

A fleet of transports is preparing to leave Brest with a considerable force for an unknown destina-

The French Government is bastening the organiza tion of district camps for new levies.

Another account of the battle of the 18th, at Nuits. from French sources, says the force opposed to the Prossians numbered 19,000 men, and had three batteries of artillery. The combat lasted all day. At evening the French retreated in an orderly manner about a thousand yards. The new levies fought like veterans. The Prussians abandoned Nuits on the morning of the 19th, but subsequently returned and reoccupied the place. The French put their loss at 1,200 killed and wounded, and claim that the enemy lost some 5,000 men.

Telegraphic communication between Bordeaux and the north of France has been restored.

## THE BESIEGED CAPITAL.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESS - A JOURNEY POST DUTY-MILITARY ORGANIZATION. [FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

THY HALLOON POST. ] Paris, Nov. 25 .- The correspondents of for eign newspapers who have remained in Paris have had scant courtesy from the authorities. Gen. Trochu does not favor press correspondents. If he could prevent representatives of even the French press from co nicating with their journals, he would probably do so These have been several times admonished not to put ish any kind of information relating to the movements of the troops or the state of the defenses, lest it she reach the Prussian lines. For intelligence of what is doing within Paris walls, the Prussians are willing to pay handsomely, and scarcely a day passes but men and women are caught laden with newspapers for the Prus sian camp. They are tempted by the large remunera service brings them to risk life or liberty, for, if the delinquency is brought home to them by the authorities, the lightest (penalty is imprisonment, and the lawful punishment, if ricorously applied, is death. We know with certainty that the Prussians receive our daily papers regularly, beside the private news conveyed to them by their own very skillful spies. Or the other hand, as the reporters of the Parisian press all belong to the National Guard, and are provided with special passes as dispatch bearers, or other duties, they are privileged to go and come freely, within the hours specified for the raising and lowering of the drawbridges. and in this way procure intelligence, more or less accorrate, of what is passing at the advance posts, which finds its way into the papers.

To a friend-a colleague whom I knew in Madrid-I au indebted for a trip, last Sunday, extending to St. Cloud, within the range of the Prussian rifles. The day was fine. We breakfasted off suspicious viands, and started early after our meal. The object of my friend's visit was to report upon an alleged misdemeanor of a captain of Mobiles, stationed at the Bridge of Sevres. The mildness of the weather and the brightness of the atme had attracted all Paris to the barriers. At Trocadéro the trowd was immense, and the hirers-out of telescopes ap peared to be driving a lucrative trade. From these hights a pretty extensive view is obtained, with the Champs de Mars in the immediate foreground; but the Prussians did not appear at any point, nor was there the least cloud of smoke nor the slightest detonation to ind cate their presence where nevertheless, we knew them to be snugly massed. On the line of road by the riverside, only the predominance of all kinds of military costumes denoted an abnormal state of things. A gunboat descending the Seine, which some accident to her machinery had stopped, was the subject of very animated conversation. These gunboats are dangerous looking craft, and do immense service. Lieut, Farcy is destined, as our French friends say, to revolutionize the naval defenses of the country, if he can only apply upon a large scale what he has successfully accomplished upon a small one, and this not only without patronage, but in spate of official opposition. Cork enters largely into the construction of his cannonniere, This material displaces little water, in comparison to the immense beam of the vessel, while the lightness enables it to carry a much greater weight than one equal to it in measurement made of wood or of iron. A very ingenious contrivance checks oscillation when its in mense gan is discharged, and another, fequally simple, protects the men maneuvering the best. In spite, he ever, of all its advantages over guaboats of the old sys and the services it has actually rendered, it wi scarcely be credited that the Artificry Committee has not yet come to the conclusion to furnish it with a car riage for its big gun, [which is essential to enable it to throw shell effectively at long distances. Its effective range, at its regular elevation, would be five miles and a quarter; as it stands, it ithrows its projectile to a dis tauce of only three miles and three-quarters.

As we draw near to Sevres the aspect of the locality changes. At Auteuil the Sunday loungers are in immense force. At the Bois de Boulogne -- for we go a dabout way in search of certain witnesses whom our

friend must interrogate - therefare more loungers; but everywhere the proofs of the state of siege are manifest. The cafes are for the most part closed. The restaurants have no viands to offer to the pleasure-seekers, and are also hermetically sealed. We recognize the proprietor of one, at which some 30 years ago we dined dearly and badly. He is an "old, old man" now, but bluff and strong withat. He stands at his own door, smiling fixedly, as of yore. We draw up and accost him, and he is immensely "charmed" to recognize us. He is sufficiently hospitable to invite us to "refresh ourselves," which we do accordingly, with the now popular bitters: a nauseous compound of aloes and sham therry, which is commonly supposed to impart appetite, but which I am honestly bound to affirm took any I had completely away. "Unfortunately," said our host, "I have nothing to offer you to eat: except horse." His smile was ghastly. We shook hands withishim, somewhat dolefully, and proceeded on our way. I hope, nevertheless, to revisit my friend's establishment, when horseflesh is no more an esteemed viand, and shall be replaced by civilized beef, alf, or mutton. Oh! for a good chop! On approaching the Pont de Sèvres we find a barricade, con stone, earth, timber, and turf. Here my friend proceeded to the persons he had to see, and after some two hours' investigation, considers that the officer referred to can establish a defense which will lead to his acquittal. But by this time it is too late to return to Paris, for the gates will be closed. We, therefore, conclude to dine where we can, and our first impulse is to beg a meal of the officers on duty in the town. As, however, everybody is expected to contribute his quota to the feast, we first seek the whereabouts of certain journalistic friends, and having discovered them, and been most heartily welcomed, we returned ito the officers quarters. I confess that horsefiesh soup with abundance of fresh vegetables is not to be despised. The soup, seasoned with mustard ad libitum and gherkins, is not detestable. Must I confess to Tabitha ! Alas! Pussy, genuine pussy, dressed with mushrooms, and white wine, and onlons, is excel lent, and when I come down to not-over-particular-about-

eating point again, I shall know what game to select.

Our entertainers are literary men, all of them, and are stationed here. They belong to the scouts of the Seine, and make night exoursions to discover what the Prussigns are about. Many of their comrades lie in the am culances, some in the grave. The survivors speak of them in subdued tones, but are themselves ready to risk the same fate. Coffee brings us close to 10 o'clock, when mobilet comes lin. "Something up, captain," he says addressing our host. We hear a shot, then two, then everal. Beside my friend and myself we number seven. We must see what is doing yonder," observer the captain quietly. "Will our friend accompany us?" ne continues, addressing my colleague. My reply is probably not use it. My'colleague is in the same position. and we agree to follow our friends discreetly. The party except ourselves-duly armed, go out into the night. There is no moon, but the stars are pursuing their ordi nary avocation, and are "brightly shining," for the reason given in the song. We make our way to the barricade al ready referred to, and the captain, answering the chalenge of the sentinel, presently beckens us forward. St Cloud is before us. Climbing up the hights opposite, and across the river, where it was yet daylight, we saw smoke arising from three houses, one close to the church. We ven see the flames, which every new and then, fanned by a smart breeze, blaze up capriciously. High above on the hillside, nearly at the top, stands a white house? In a room in the upper story a light appears. I apply my glass to my eye, and fancy I can distinguish a moving chadow. Just as I am going to ask my friend the captain whether the form is one of a substantial Prussian, in startled by a bang on my right, and almost instantly, I may say even simultaneously, the light disappears, and all is darkness. At the same instant every man of our party ducks. I am unaware of any danger and don't duck, but am dragged down to a most uncomfortably flat position by a vigorous hand behind, at the same moment when some 20 bullets come driving through the air with peculiar whistle and whirr. It is as though a big cockreach, or a multitude of them were buzzing about your coming from each side, but no response is given from over the way. We remain quiet for about fifteen minutes, when, upon a whisper from the captain, we come to the perpendicular, and after a few minutes' pause, follow him. Our road is along the quay. We neet friends of the captain's, with whom he speaks in whispers, and we then pass on. We come to an opening where the river is wide, and where there is a boat with nen ready, their oars muffled. The captain asks what is going on, and is told that everything is quiet, but that the "enemy" has been at work "on the other side." After a brief parley he concludes to return, and we reach

our quarters somewhere about half past one. Our night

s passed in front of a huge fire of logs, and not unpleasantly. Far into the small bours sleep overtakes us, and we doze until our knees begin to roast and our back to reeze. Then we wake up and presently doze aga hus the remainder of the night passes until everybody wakes himself with a shiver, and becomes conscious it is broad daylight and coffee would be desirable. The preparation of this beverage is confided to a practiced hand. Having disposed of breakfast, at eight we start on our vay back, via the Bols de Boulogne. Nothing can be more desolate than the appearance presented by that favorite resort. Where the trees stood thick and flourishng in their green mantles, ugly open spaces only are to be seen; the stumps of the trees all sharpened to a point s if they were prepared for some general impalement. The lake is deserted by its late aquatic inhabitants. The are and the common ducks, geese, and water-fowls of every kind, have been shot and eaten by the Mobiles and he troops. Soldiers are encamped everywhere, and as it is vet early, some of the fatigue parties are making the morning coffee; more are cleaning their weapons; a few ar rooming the horses of the officers. As we reach the Porte Maillot, a number of old women and many children flock out and begin to gather up brushwood. With the restaurateur Filets, Gen. Ducrotihas taken up his headquarters. Couriers are already awaiting orders, and others are arriving. We inquire whether anything fresh has occurred, but the reply is negative. are outside we conclude to make a tour of the barrier It is simply impossible to recognize the localities. own habitation at Levallois Perret-quitted flast June a year ago-has totally disappeared, garden, trees, every vestige, and entire streets are replaced by heaps of rub From the ramparts the cannon frowns grimly and cheraux-de-frise bar every passage to the gates which are not approached save by pallisaded zig-zags defended by immense and formidable barricades. At Saint Ouen we come upon three gun-boats which have sneaked down from St. Cloud, and are stationed here, under the trees of the park, awaiting orders. Their fire will make it rather hot for the Prussians at Argenteuil and there is also a battery of ship-guns not far off, which will take time and trouble to silence. Leaving these be hind us, we push on to St. Denis, the principal streets of which are securely barred, but all the shops are open and business appears to be thriving. Here the civilian ostume is the exception, and one feels almost out of countenance under a round hat and in an overcoat. We are surprised to find beef and mutton comparatively abundant. From St. Denis the way back to Paris is open by rail, and, adopting this mode of conveyance, we reach er domicile late in the evening, but quite satisfied with our trip, and ready for another at the very first oppor-

One of the most curious features in the present state of things is the impunity with which the market-gardens are robbed. Within the last few days-only on the other ide of Paris-the Prussians took to firing upon the bands of freebooters whom they had, up to that time, permitted o gather at ease the harvest of produce others had wn. Upward of a hundred persons were thus wounded, and many killed, including several women and children. The Government, finding that even this slaughter did not deter the maranders, prohibited by decree the entry of all persons laden with garden produce of which they could not give a satisfactory account. But St. Denis is an open town, so to speak, and, as maranding is profitable, it is still carried on, in spite of the danger attending it, under the very guns of the Prussians, who seem to be more indulgent on this side than their companions on the southern boundary. Thus is the town abundantly supplied with vegetables of every kind, while there is an absolute learth of them in Paris.

Important military movements are about to take place. The National Guard is now actively exercised, and immense quantities of provisions and material of war are brought together. The indications of a move of some kind we unmistakable, and not a day passes but large bodies of troops are reviewed. In view, then, of the fighting which is inevitably to come off, it will be interesting here to describe the compagnies de guerre upon whom the brunt of it will fall. Up to the 4th of September, the National Guard proper of Paris coneisted of \$2 hattalione, baving each eight companies, each company numbering 180 men. There were shop-keepers individuals of inde-

pendent means, and others, belonging to the classes who were supposed to have something to lose, and who were therefore tacitly enrolled among "the friends of order:" liberally interpreted, friends of any and whatsoever regime, so long fas it did not require them to make any sacrifice beyond 24 hours' guard every three months, in comfortable quarters, where champagne, oysters, and coffee were not wanting, and the necessi ties of duty covered delinquencies in the matte of the observance of one or more of the Ten Commandments. The effective strength-or weakness, if you will of this guard was 62,400 men. Immediately after the revolution of the 4th of September, when the Republic was declared, and the Government fell into the hands of men who were doubtful Republicans, the National Guard 'guard," and was weakened by a declaration from the authorities that certain individuals only would be entitled to the honors of the red-striped trowsers and the military cap. The country was not considered sufficiently in danger yet to warrant the levy en masse. The various decrees, however, issued between the 4th of September and the 8th of the current month created 214 new battalions of the Guard, each consisting of six companies in lieu of eight, and each company numbering 250 men instead of 150. There were, therefore, the old battalions-52 in number-62,400; the new, 214 in number, each 1,500 strong, a total of 321,000; or a gross total of 383,400. Of the 266 batalions, only 211 are armed at this present moment, and these not uniformly. When the Government at length resolved to constitute war companies selected from the National Guard, it made a first general appeal for volunteers. It was less successful than was expected, but more than-under the circumstances-might have been foreseen. Persisting in its somnolent policy of half or three-quarter measures, instead of proceeding at once to compel the recalcitrants among the citizens to present themselves for enrollment, it issued the decree of the 8th reforming the Guard as follows: First, each battalion is to consist of eight or ten companies, according to its effective strength. In other words, the old battalions retain their ori; and formation of eight companies, each of 150 men, and 'he new are reconstituted so to bring their companies to the same figure, ten at 150 being equivalent to six at 250. The first four of these companies are formed into "war companies," each 100 strong, from the old battalions of 1,200 men each, and of 150 strong from the new ones of 1,500 men each. This gives per old battalion, 400, and per new, 500 men, which, multiplied by 52-the number of the old battalions and by 214-that of the newly-formed ones-furnishes an effective strength of 20,400 from the first category and of 107,000 from the second, a total of 127,800 men who have been drafted into the army by this decree, leaving 255,600 in reserve for rampart duty. Another class has yet to be added to this total, namely, the citizens who had not declared themselves at the several mairies, but who were called out by a decree of the 10th instant. This peremptory requisition brought out upward of 75,000 men, who will be drafted into the first marching regiments, and who, added to the above number, constitute an effective grand total of National Guards of

The men receive the ordinary pay of one franc and a half a day, and are equipped in every respect like the line regiments, save and except the trowsers, which are black with a narrow red stripe down the side. They are also provided with gaiters of hide, strong shoes, and a blue overcoat. All are armed with the chassepot or the Remington rifle. I have seen many of the companies, in squads, sections, and massed, executing the usual maneuvers, and judging them by the precision of their movements, as compared with the ordinary troops, they seem quite the equals of the latter, and, in some respects, even superior. They march with the regularity of welldrilled soldiers, which is paying them only a compliment

The levy en masse which the last decree prescribed could have been ordered quite five weeks earlier, and the levies, now raw, would have been fit for active service by this time. On the other hand it is alleged in excuse that the Government did not possess and could not command the means of manufacturing a sufficient quantity of arms to equip half a million of citizen soldiers, and in this excuse there is a certain show of reason. But it can be objected, with equal force, that nearly six weeks were lost before routine called in private enterprise to help forward the immense task of providing weapons for so vast an army. The necessity of this step was the creater in view of the fact that all the machinery for the manufacture of the new guns and the conversion of the old into breech-loaders, having an effect-ive range of from 650 to 750 yards, had to However, "better late than never," says the proverb. Thus, thanks to the administrative abilities of Col. (now General) Ferri Pisani, nearly 400,000 peaceful citizens have, in a wonderfully brief space of time, been converted from what Gen. Trochu called "a mere multitude" into a real army, upward of two-thirds of which is excellently armed and equipped, and ready for active service. I am, I confess, one of the few of my these citizen soldiers. Now they have come to realize the gravity of the situation, I feel convinced they will do their duty, without pluster or swagger, when the supreme necessity arises. Gen. Ferri Pisani is own consinto Louis Blanc, is a man of rare energy and intelligence, and will assuredly make his mark in the time coming.

The artillery of the Guard is now also completed, and is under the command of Victor Schælcher, formerly representative of the people for Guadeloupe, a wellknown Republican, one of the victims of the coup d'état, but best known as the chief promoter of the noble decree for the immediate abolition of Slavery, issued by the Provisional Government in 1848. It was reviewed a day or two ago, and I record the fact because M. Henri de Rochefort figured in the ranks as a simple soldier The artillery corps of the National Guard is composed entirely of volunteers. The men presented an excellent appearance, and, although the guns are only six-pounders and of the old model, they will render good service should necessity arise for their being brought into use on

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE MT. CENIS TUNNEL. THE WORKMEN IN THE OPPOSITE HEADINGS WITHIN HEARING DISTANCE — GREETINGS

EXCHANGED. LONDON, Monday, Dec. 26, 1870.

The working parties in the opposite headings of the Mt. Cenis Tunnel are within hearing distance of each other. Greetings and hurrahs were exchanged through the dividing wall of rock for the first time at 42 o'clock Christmas afternoon.

SPAIN.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE NEW KING AGAIN POSTPONED.

LONDON, Dec. 25, 1870. Prince Amadeus was to leave Florence at 11 o'clock this morning; but dispatches sent thence, as late as 15 this afternoon, make no mention of his departure.

AUSTRIA.

COUNT BISMARCE'S PURPOSE IN SUGGESTING THE ONFERENCE-THE BANKRUPTCY OF EMPIRE-FOREIGN WAR POLICY DEPRECATED

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT. VIENNA, Dec. 3 .- It is a very common impression here that Count Bismarck has been fooling Odo Russell and the English Government. We heard so much, when the British envoy was first sent to Versailles. of the categorical nature of the question which was to be put to the wily Prussian Minister that we were disappointed, after a delay of nearly a week, to hear of no equally categorical reply. We were disappointed, no doubt, but I can hardly say we were surprised. Count Bismarck is accredited in Austria, perhaps, more than anywhere else, with an almost superhuman power of putting every one on the wrong scent. It certainly does not require much reflection to see that the Conference project, leading, as it probably will, to an indefinite amount of diplomatic letter-writing and international interchange of compliments, is the very thing of all others that Prussia at the present crisis could most have desired. The most hot-headed Hungarian must have his warlike feelings a little sobered when he glances at the figures of the last Austrian Budget. The contrast between the exorbitant demands of the Minister of War and the modest sum which the Minister of Finance is able to put to the credit account of the Government is sufficiently striking. It must have been anything but a proud mo ment for poor Minister Lonyay when he brought up the meager account of the Austrian revenue for 1870 the other day. Three hundred and twenty million floring had to be paid by Cisleithan-i. e., non-Hungarian Austrin-nione; and the Minister had only 295,000,000 in hand

NEW-YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1870. How was it to be covered? The first thing to be done was obviously to search about in all corners of the revenue chest and see if some money had not been forgotten. This industry was rewarded. It is discovered that there is 2,500,000 of small money in the Mint which can be appropriated by the exchequer. One ingenious person suggests that ten-kreutzer pieces are in process of being coined to the amount of half a million. If they are not yet coined, the money can be used for other pur poses. Then it is remembered that the State possesses rallway shares to the amount of three million can be sold and employed for covering the deficit. Still, the deficit is not yet covered. In private life, when a man cannot pay his debts he is apt to speak mysteriously about the wills of rich relations and other possible sources of wealth. So the Austrian Minister tells us he 'expects" an increase of six millions in the revenue from the land, and an increase of ten millions in the proceeds of the indirect taxes. I hope these expectations

Truly, as the Presse remarks this morning, this is melancholy picture. Never has a constitutional State had such a budget to show as this Austrian budget of 1870. It would have been better, says the Presse, to have acknowledged frankly that Austria could not pay her debts this year, than for her to have fumbled in the Statepurse, as she has done, and at last have brought out before the eyes of the astonished world her very last kreutzer. But the worst has yet to come. If, as the Neue Preie Presse thinks, the expenses for 1871 will be quite equal to those for 1870, and if, as in the plain fact, Austria has no more capital to fall back on; the empire will be saddled at the end of next year with a deficit of 56,000,000

It is certainly time for Austria to set her house in order, and keep her eyes steadily averted from anything like warlike foreign policy. And this is no doubt the view of all her responsible statesmen. The empire is passing through a great political and financial crisis. The late liberal measures have as yet brought little fruit but discord. A people which all st once finds itself free, after centuries of despotism, is not wont to exhibit the graces, directly it has received the privileges, of freedom. Whe ther Austria will in the end be able to form a nation out of the 15,000,000 Sclaves, 9,000,000 Germans, and 5,000,000 Magyars who fall now under her sway, or whether these diverse elements will eventually be attracted to one or other of the two great kingdoms which lie to the north or east of her, must be determined mainly by the actions of her leading statesmen during the next few

MISCELLANEOUS CAPLE DISPATCHES. .... The Fenian convicts were discharged from Fortland (Eng.) Prison on Friday last.

....The people of New-Zealand are said to be dissatisfied at the delay of the mails sent via Califor-

John Walter, jr., son of the chief editor

....The Pall Mall Gazette is anxious that Americans should know that England is heartily tired of the Alabama controversy, and is ready to pay any im-partial money award, if an adjustment can be confined thereto.

THE RICHMOND FIRE-FURTHER PARICULARS ANOTHER VICTIM DISCOVERED.

Washington, Dec. 26 .- A. R. Leib, a special agent of the Treasury Department, was a guest at the Spotswood House, Richmond, at the time of the fire. He states that soon after 2 a. m. yesterday, while in bed in the third story, he heard a sound below as if some one was breaking kindling wood. He rose and looked out of the window, but saw nothing unusual. The noise continuing, however, he commenced dressing himself leisurely, as he intended to take the next railroad train. Before leaving his room he turned off the gas, and glancing toward the window saw a light from the out side, which he soon discovered proceeded from flames bursting from the story directly under him. He then heard a woman, whom he supposed to be the house-keeper, cry in wild slarm: "My God! the house is on fire!" He called to her to dress herself, and with the view of calming her excitement, said to her that there was no danger on her side, but that it was on his. He then proceeded to knock at all the doors in the third story, to awaken the occupants of the rooms and urge them to dress themselves quickly, as the house was on

them to dress themselves quickly, as the house was on fire.

Mr. Leib then descended to the second story, where he found Mr. Shure knocking at the doors, waking the guests, who were soon all up and aware of their danger. The utmost alarm now naturally prevailed, and, in the general eagerness to escape, the possage way of the private entrance was in a short time crowded, and, owing to the pressure, the doors could not be opened until, by extraordinary force, the crowd was pushed back, and room was made for that purpose. The housekeeper, Mrs. Kinnerly, was the second person who awoke on that morning, but perished by being cut off by the diames, having delayed in order to look after her trunk. The man having it in his possession preceded her, and barely got beyond her when the flames impeded her progress, and the stairway fell.

The man having it in his possession preceded her, and barely got beyond her when the flames impeded her progress, and the stairway fell.

The fire, Mr. Leib says, originated in the wine-room, adjoining the dining-room, on the second story. Mr. Lock, one of the proprietors of the hotel, was severely burned. He rushed through the flames for his family, who, however, at that time were safe, though this fact was unknown to him. Mr. Leib says that Messrs, George and Andrews of Syracuse, N. Y., and Mr. Shure, wife and child, reported missing, are all safe. Mr. Leib's wife was lost on the schooner Evening Star, off the coast of Florida, in a gale, on the 22d of February.

John H. Holman, jr., of Jackson, Tenn., is now known to have been burned at the Spotswood Hotel, making the eighth victim. Nathan Burnstein of Washington turned up safe this morning. Wilcox of Lynchburg and Vaden of Chestertield, reported missing, are safe. This leaves several still missing, of whose safety there is little hope.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN HARRISONBURG, VA.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN HARRISONEURG, VA. HARRISONBURG, Dec. 25 .- A very destructive are occurred here this morning, between 4 and 5 o'clock, which consumed a large number of the principal busi-ness houses in the town. The fire originated in Wall's store, and consumed a whole square before the flames store, and consumed a whole square before the flames were subdued. The following establishments were totally destroyed, with nearly all their contents: The First National Bank, The Semi-Weekly Enterprise office, Wall's liquor-store, Kelly's workshop, Heller's liquor-store, Semith's store and dwelling, Mrs. B. J. Coffonan's dwelling, Maud A. Heller's drygoods store, Tupton's clothing-store, Messrs. Silbert & Long's clothing-store, Willman's barber-shop, Ewitzer's clothing-store, Andrews's livery stable, Wortman's book-store. The American Hotel, on the opposite side of Main-st., was considerably damaged. All the glass in the windows was broken by the intense heat. Mr. Switzer and son were badly hurf, but not seriously. The destruction of property will amount to \$100,000. Partly insured.

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN POUGHKEEPSIE.

Poughkeepsie, Dec. 26 .- A fire broke out n Connor's saloon, on Main-st., this evening, and before the flames were suppressed the following stores were burned: E. R. Pease, boots and shoes; Schwartz, clothier; Lambert, cigars; Van Wyck, hats and caps; Myers, pho-Lambert, eigars, van wyek, nats and cape; Myefs, plactograph; Melrose, fancy goods, Farnum, drugs; Wilson books and stationery; Hyde, shoes. These stores were all on Main st. On Garden-st., the stores of the following named persons were burned: Kimball, engraver Hyatt, umbrellas; also another engraving establishment. The contents of Farnum's drug store, Wilson's book store, and Hyde's shoe store were nearly all saved.

WHY SENATOR SUMNER ASSAILED THE SAN DO-MINGO SCHEME. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Your article on the San Domingo depate in the Senate shows such a disposition to treat the question fairly and impartially, that, as a believer in the view espoused by Mr. Sumner, Gen. Schurz, and others, I am led to state one or two facts which do not seem to be fully appreciated by you.

If you will read Senator Sumner's speech you will see that there is not in it one word of personal imputation or personality toward the President. He assailed the San Domingo scheme on grounds which nobedy answered. It is Mr. Sumner's nature to be aroused when the weak are oppressed. All the evidence shows that at great expense we keep Baez in power; that without our naval orce he would be obliged to flee. And, still further, in carrying out the same scheme we menace Hayti. Senate Sumper was determined to make such an exposure as would make it difficult to pursue the scheme. The only answer to him was a volley of personalities. No one can show a single word of "misrepresentation" by the Senator. Everything he said was sustained by the evidence; and as to the Presidential pressure, it surpasses that of other days against Kansas. Mr. Morton's resolutions were unnecessary, except as a device to commit Congress to the scheme. The President may send agents without an act of Congress. The most important information is documentary, and on the files of the Department.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 24, 1870. Yours, &c., A. B.

Secretary Delano and Senator Cameron are in Atlanta, Ga., it is reported, on business connected with the Atlanta Chattanouga Railroad, the Legislature of Georgia, at the last sees having passed a bill to lease this road for 20 years.

"The Secretary of the Merchants' Exchange of St. Louis has received the following statistics of hog packing in the West: Packed at St. Louis this year, 151,594; last year, 179,306; at Chicago, this year, 337,365; last year, 377,666; at Chicago, this year, 337,365; last year, 377,666; at Chicago, this year, 377,666; at Louisville, 215,774, against 7,765,000, as Julianagolla, 65,604 this year. to meet his dobts. There remained a deficit of 25,000,000.

## WASHINGTON.

THE SAN DOMINGO DEBATE-THE MOVEMENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF MR. SUMNER FROM THE FOREIGN COMMITTEE ABANDONED—THE GEORGIA SENATORS ANTICIPATED EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE CANADIAN FISHERY

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 26, 1870. Those Senators who decided, after the speech of Sena or Sumper on the San Domingo resolutions, and the debate which followed it, to attempt to remove the Massachusetta Senator from the Chairmanship of the Commit tee on Foreign Relations, have nearly all come to the conclusion to abandon the undertaking-first, because it is impracticable of accomplishment, and second, because they are satisfied that Mr. Summer is the most capation man in the Senate for the position. Hereafter, th lority can so arrange matters as to bring treaties and other like subjects before the legislative session, and thus prevent them, or such of them as Mr. Sumner opposes, from going to the Foreign Committee. Many of the most radical Administration Senators are satisfied. from words of Mr. Sumner which have been repeated to them, that he is not opposed to the general foreign policy of the President, and that he said much in the excitement of debate which he did not intend to say, and which he regrets. He does not express any animosity toward the President, and he intends to give all Administration measures a fair and cordial support.

The President, although somewhat pained at what had occurred in the heat of the San Domingo debate, has never spoken of Mr. Sumner except in the most respect. ful language, and shows he has a thorough knowledge and appreciation of the Senator's abilities. It is not thought that there will be any future scenes of the character of that of last week, and all believe that if the question of San Domingo again comes up in the Senate it will be treated upon its merits, and not upon the man ner in which the treaty or protocol was negotiated or signed.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will meet on the Saturday preceding the assembling of Congress, to hear arguments on the Georgia Senatorship. There are four applicants for the honor. Messrs. Hill and Miller were elected in 1868, and they claim that the Legislature which elected them was legally constituted, the negroes not being expelled until after their election. But the claim is made against Messrs. Hill and Miller that the Legislature by which they were elected was from the first illegally constituted, the iron-clad eath never having inistered, and there being a number unable to take it. Mr. Hill, however, claims that in his case the votes cast for him were all legal, or so nearly so as to eave him still the majority requisite for election. In Mr. Miller's election, he receiving the Democratic vote, this was not the case; besides, Mr. Miller's disabilities have never been removed. For Messrs. Whitely and Farrom, Republicans elect, chosen in 1869, the claim is made that they were elected by the only legally stituted Legislature under the Act of 1860, passed by Congress in consequence of Democratic usurpations.

The British Minister has, under instructions from home.

already taken the initiatory stops toward considering the fishery controversy and arranging for a settlement of claims that will arise from the seizure of our vessels Sir Edward Thornton has acknowledged the substantial correctness of Mr. Fish's position, as shown by the diplomatic correspondence just published, running from April to November of the present year, relating to the fishery question. The Canadian authorities claim that their refusal to issue licenses to foreign fishermen does not interfere with American privileges under the Treaty of 1818, and that there are now no waters embraced in that treaty under the control of the New Dominion. Mr. Fish takes the opposite grou and, in illustration, points to that portion of the coast formerly known as Labrador, from Au Sablen to Magdalen Island. He also points to discrepancies in the position taken by the Home and Provincial authorities. one being that the Canadian line is three miles from the shore, while the other assumes that it is three miles from an imaginary line drawn across the mouths of all rivers and bays. Sir Edward Thornton concurred in the general correctness of Mr. Fish's position, and that fact will make an adjustment of all points a comparatively easy task. It is well understood by the British Minister that the regulations made by Canada are illiberal and illadvised, and the manner of their execution shows an unfriendly spirit.

There is considerable interest felt in the controversy likely to arise over the proposed removal of Commis-sioner Wilson of the General Land Office. No doubt exsts of the President's intention. A number of person are mentioned in connection with the position. It is understood to have been offered to the Hon. George W. Ju. lian, the President being very desirous of having as Commissioner one who so strennously favors the homestead policy, and opposes the land grant system. Mr. Julian's health will, however, preclude his assuming such duties Judge Lawrence of Ohio and Mr. Loughridge of Iowa are both spoken of, while the name of Mr. Ela of New Hampshire has been strongly urged upon the President's

The report is again revived, with assurances of entire accuracy, that in the event of the passage by Congress of the hill now before the House Judiciary Committee. providing for the acceptance by the President in certain cases of the resignation of any U. S. Judge, and the granting of a pension equal to his pay, for life, Chief-Justice Chase will retire from the Supreme Bench. The most prominent candidates already named for the exvacancy are Mr. Justice Miller and Senator Williams of Oregon. As the name of the latter, however, has been connected with so many high offices, it is proper to say that the Senator declares that he has never been offered any office by the President.

WASHINGTON SKETCHES. SSESSING THE GOVERNMENT CLERKS-THE SAN DOMINGO DEBATE-PRESENTATION TO SCHUY

LER COLFAX, JR. - CHRISTMAS-TIDE AND WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-I have an idea in

regard to the proposition made by Senator Drake, just before he ceased to be—his last bill and testament I believe-to assess the clerks, in order to raise a fund to meet the expenses of the sickness and burial of the incompetent, thriftless, or discipated Government em ployes, who live up to the last penny of their incom seyond it, and die forlornly, in third-class hotels, or shabby boarding-houses. One of the Bumbles of Con gress, who look on the clerks as so many Oliver Twists. sudaciously "asking for more," once had the insolence to speak of them collectively, as " Government paupers." Mr. Drake would charge the paupers with the pauperswould make "the dead bury the dead." The poor clerks they are always experimented upon, assessed and distressed, rated and berated. They are like the Roman Clients, and must dance, or fight, at the pleas sure of Congress ! Patricians; or so many Damocleses, who, reclining luxuriously on their office-stools, see ever above each dingy desk the hair-suspended sword. There is not a freedman in Washington-not even in the Freedman's Bureau. But to my idea. A Government clerkship, contrary to popular b lief, is not a gold or silver mine, a pearl-fishery, or a diamond-field. Still, by close economy, a man may lay by a little sum for a rainy day—enough to pay the doctor and the undertaker, provided they are both expeditions and moderate in their charges. To be sure, this leaves little to be spent in healthful recreation, and nothing to be squandered on charities. Now, it is notorious that the unthrifty, incompetent, impecunious clerk is kept in his place by strong political influence. It is only when he is no longer useful, positively or prospectively, that he is "only a pauper whom nobody owns." Now, my proposition is, that the Congressmen who have used these broken tools, pay for the mending—that the former commanders of this invalid corps of political followers t assessed for the melancholy expenses of their sickness and interment. If the Government can bear with these incompetents so long, they can at least bury them. This it seems to me, would be about the fair thing.

That was a fearful night-session of the Senate when they wrestled with the San Domingo question, like Jacob with the angel, "till the break of day." All through the cold, wild hours of our first real Winter night, the dor of the Capitol outshone the beavens, wasting light with a magnificent prodigality. That lavish flow of radiance out upon the thirsty darkness was only to be rivaled by the flow of lucid asgument, and the flash of satire on that dark question, within the Senate Chamber. San Domingo, if we ever get it, will cost us dearly in gas As a woman, with no political opinions that men are bound to respect, I will not venture to discuss the great annexation project, which is convulsing Washington, and heaving at the foundations of the Republican party. Poor old San Demingo! fairest and most unhappy of the Isles of the Sea, sanctified by the heroism of Columbus and ssaint, yet seeming to have had upon ber, from the

first, a curse or a fatality, of greed, and strife, and blood. Are we pure, and strong, and wise enough to lift that curse from off her, to redeem her, and make an end of per long day of tempest and tribulation! This is the question, it seems to me, which may well "give us pause." Humanity first, aggrandizement afterwards, icertainly the safe principle,-for, what will it profit us if we gain the whole new world, and lose our own soul ! If we can be sure that the true spirit of the Island, hap-less, long suffering, heroic Hispaniola, is stretching out her arms to us from the hights of San Domingo, it seems to me we ought to take her under our flag, though its stars are strange, and its blue will be, for her, somewhat cold. Certainly this new outbreak of dissension and personal animosity in the Senate is most deplorable. It s sad to see members of one political household agreeing only te dwell together, in disunion, and brotherly nity. It is somewhat shocking to hear the words of .nregenerate human passion from those grave and austere elders of the State, whose heads should be cool whose hearts chastened, and whose souls pervaded by a ofty calm.

Yet, now and then, we see tokens of kindly, social feeting and human fellowship, underneath all this disruption and discord, triumphing over party rancours and jealousies. A beautiful proof of this entente cordiale has been lately afforded us by a pretty little gift-enter-prise in which all joined, Democrats and Republicans of all shades and varieties, violent colors and neutral tints. The enterprise which was the occasion of such rare and delightful unanimity was a presentation of a service of allver to Schuyler Colfax, jr., a young gentleman now, I believe, in the ninth month of his first term in Washing ton. This offering of the Magi from the East and the West, the North and the South, is, though of pure Ameri can manufacture, of royal beauty and splendor. It is in seven pieces, all of most graceful form and elegant ornamentation. The very case which con tains them, satin-lined; and of inlaid woods, is a work of art. This good gift comes from Providence through Gorham & Co. It is amusing to see with what princely condescension, almost indifference, the infant Schuyler regards this magnificent testimoniul. He would loubtlese like to sit in the salver, to view his own sweet face in the gold-lined pap-bowl, to drum on the delicately chased plate with the knife, fork and spoon, and to cut his teeth on the napkin-ring; but, as these proceeding are decided to be not in order, he evidently thinks lightly of the whole grand display. With that strange, introverted look in his eyes peculiar to young babies the look which Shelley once questioned so passionately for evidence of a previous existence-he seems to say O, this is a small affair, compared to the set I used to be served with up in my other pretty home, beyond the gates of pearl; and they used to let me do just what I pleased with that."

Bret Harte has wonderfully told the wonderful story of a baby, who humanized and almost redeemed a conpany of quarrelsome and reckless miners, and became, the best sense of the word, the "Luck" of that godless and womanless community. Perhaps it would be much to hope that this dear little fellow, though born under a more fortunate star than the walf of that wild valley-the son of a lucky sire, and a good mother, might prove, in as happy a sense, the "Luck" of the "Roaring Camp" of the United States Senate; for these poor men. unlike the miners, cannot have the baby's nurture, and its purifying and elevating companionship, day after day. But the mere thinking of their innocent, anconsci beneficiary, in that tender, generous way, has done thes desperate delvers after golden opinions, these political crushers and sifters, some good, I doubt not. I wish the little child" to whom they "made over that 'ere bit of plate juntly," could occasionally be brought, and "set in their midst," when they are contending as to "who shall be greatest," to recall to them the words of the Lord. He is already a peace-maker, in his little way He almost fulfills the prophecy, "the lion shall lie down with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them "-for just think of the flery McCreery and the retiring Conking-the rash Buckingham and the gentle Saulsburythe mild Thurman and the truculent Howe, uniting in a tribute to his benign babyhood—and he beaming on them all, with his small Colfaxian smile, sunny and impartial, and with a strange look at his sweet mother, in his tender gray eyes.

Our ugly, dirty, incommodious old market-house has been burned,down-fried in its own fat by an incendiary cook, as you have heard, and but for the melancholy ac cident that accompanied the burning, we should thankfully accept the mysterious dispensation of Providence still, only a little better than that miserable old collection of sheds, will be the huge French-roofed building it is proposed to erect in its place, to be used for the sam purposes. Now that the lot is unobstructed we can se how fine a view of the Smithsonian and Agricul tural buildings and grounds we shall be deprived of for always, unless another fortunate conflagration rebuke the powers that be for bad judgment and had taste. That the noblest avenue and most public prome nade of the city is not a fit place for a general surely admits of no argument. I know it is arged that inless used for market purposes, the ground will rever to its original owners; but can it not be purchased ! Surely there "is a way where there is a will," and the will should be to secure this piece of land for an entrance to the Smithsonian grounds and the grand shaded drive that is to be, when the public parks are united, and the dreadful old canal is suppressed.

Why must Washington be forever subject to the experiments of insane builders and sordist contractors! Why cannot some enlarged ideas of fitness and beauty architectural and landscape effects, enter into some o the plans for the so-called improvement of the Capitol It is because I believe in the capabilities of the dear, ditracted, mismanaged, malfreated, old fowe, that I am disturbed at the idea of letting slip such a grand opportunity for making it more worthy to be the Capital of the whole country-the greatest country the sun shines on, though we say it, that should n't say it. Shall such a splendid opening for the picturesque be closed forever, and given over irredeemably to the contractors and

The Christmas agoniestare upon us. Up and down the venue we tramp, this bitter weather—to Perry's, Philip's, and Galt's—to Galt's, Philip's and Perry's, and all intermediate stations-getting great bargains of course, with coughs, colds and rheamatisms thrown in. I sometimes think that Christmas has killed more wemen and child-ren than St. Bartholomew made away with. Yet, for all that, it is a grand, old festival, beautiful and sa

This must be a sad Christmas to all English-speaking peoples, for we all must feel that the great master of the east is no longer with us. The merriest chimes will ring a inrried knell, to our hearts, on the day he loved ; in the dithest Christmas Carol there will be something of the dirge; wherever we worship, our tender thoughts will wander to the solemn old Abbey, to the dim Poets' Corer, where he lies. Let us wreathe his picture with holly, and keep his memory green, from Christmas to

THE WAR IN FRANCE-AN APPEAL FROM THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

The Society of Friends in Great Britain have appointed a large and intelligent Committee to collect fonds to aid the women and children and other non combatant victims of the war in France. Sub-conquittees, who have volunteered to act without compensa-tion, have been selected to visit the localities ravaged by the contending armies, inspect the necessities of the people, and relieve, as far as possible, the cases of actual want. The accounts received from these gentlemen of the bitter suffering and desolation which they have wit nessed, show the necessity of immediate relief to prevent actual starvation. Many of the people are without home. food, or clothing, and have no hope of immediate relief except through the charity of other countries. appeal to the people of England, issued on behalf of the villagers of North-Eastern France, will be understood and appreciated in the United States: "You, our British brethren, know the comfort and security of a land where every man's house is his eastle; you have for centuries not felt the ravages of lavasion; fancy the destruction of all your heaves of sub-sistence, and then refuse, if you can, to help, and help quickly, your neighbors who

of all your means of subsistence, and then refuse, if you can, to help, and help quickly, your neighbors who are perishing."

The triends in London had, at last accounts, received from their own members and other contributors, £12,772 (about \$45,000) and over 1,000 garments; but the necessity for even temporary relief is so great that they ask the aid of the charitable in America. When it is known that the Friends of Great Britain, during and since the laterial war in this country, contributed about £100,000, or \$500,000 in gold, to aid the freedmen in their distress, through the Society of Friends in this country, their appeal for cooperation on the present occasion will be appreciated. Subscriptions may be sent to either of the undersigned, who have been appointed for that purpose, and will be acknowledged and promptly forwarded to the Committee in London:

William Wood, late of William Wood & Co., 61 Walkerst.; Edward Tatum of William Rood, late of Marshall, Dickinson & Co., 83 Beckman St.; Benjamin Tatham of Tatham & Brockers, \$2 Beckman St.